

Assignment 2 Cutting Carrots

The cutting carrots is a well-known video assignment given to new solo video journalists at the Video News International storytelling boot camps in the early 90s.

The premise of cutting carrots is to learn the basic foundations video sequencing by shooting something repetitious (like someone cutting up carrots.) The goal here is to shoot as many types of shots that you will later edit together into a montage.

Without sequencing your video in a scene, what you are left with is just one long boring shot.

What's a sequence?

- **A sequence is a series of shots that should get an object or a person from point a to point b**
- **All shots in the sequence should have a commonality to them either by time, location, or elements in the shot**
- **A sequence should have a beginning, a middle and an end (more difficult than you think)** *Source: Shawn Montano The Edit Foundry*

The Assignment (work in teams)

Shoot a team member working at a computer doing their homework. I want you to break the scene down into different shots.

Shoot these shots:

A wide establishing shot (show the viewer where your are

Wide shot

Medium shots (from the side, front,

Tight shots (several)

Over the shoulder

Action shot (typing)

Reaction shot (tight looking up at face)

For this assignment I want you to use a tripod for stability, but if you need to handhold some shots that's ok.

The most important thing to remember when shooting a series of clips is to hold each shot for around 10 seconds each. That will give you more than adequate space for editing.

In your next assignment, you will take what you have learned and shoot a sequence that includes a variety of shots and shows your subject going from point a to point b.

